HUNGRY FOR THE SEQUEL BEFORE GAMES EVEN BEGINS?

SCREENWRITER IS ALREADY SHOPPING HIS ADAPTATION OF THE HUNGER GAMES FOLLOWUP PAGE 16

WINNIPEG metro®

Weekend, March 9-11, 2012

News worth sharing.

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Stobbe takes the stand in his own defence

His side of the story. Former political adviser accused of murdering wife while young sons slept, says he is innocent

Mark Stobbe testified in his own defence at his second-degree murder trial Thursday. His lawyer asked him point-blank about the October 2000 slaying of Beverly Rowbotham.

"Did you kill Bev Rowbotham?" Tim Killeen asked.

"No, I did not," Stobbe said calmly.

"Did you clean up the yard?"

"No, I did not," Stobbe said.

"Did you move her body to Selkirk, Mba?"

"No, I did not."

The Crown alleges Stobbe killed his wife by hitting her in the head numerous times with a hatchet in the backyard of their home in St. Andrews.

Stobbe said the couple lived relatively happily in Saskatchewan when Stobbe worked as a high-ranking adviser to former premier Roy Romanow. They moved to Winnipeg in the spring of 2000 when Stobbe was offered a high-level position with the newly elected NDP government.

Rowbotham didn't hesitate, Stobbe said.

"She was just looking forward to the move," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Trans-Canada was the scene of two major accidents Thursday just before noon. CHRISD.CA/STAN MILOSEVIC/MANITOBAPHOTOS.COM

If Winnipeg Transit was free

We crunch the numbers to find out how much taxpayers would be out of pocket.

PAGE 4

Time to spring forward

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead by one hour before bed on Saturday night

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It's me, but I was parked: Mayor Katz

Mayor Sam Katz behind the wheel of a parked car. SUPPLIED

Mayor Sam Katz confirmed a photo making the rounds on social media Thursday morning does show him talking on a cellphone while behind the wheel, but said it's years old and he was parked.

The grainy photo shows Mayor Katz in front of a store while chatting on a cellphone, sitting in his vehicle.

His hands are not on the wheel.

Katz said Thursday the photo shows him behind the wheel of a car that he hasn't driven in more than a year and a half.

"It's rather humourous … it's my vehicle that I no longer have," he said, before giving the anonymous poster some photographic advice. "That is definitely not my best side, so the next time … please shoot the other side is all I ask."

The photo comes a few days after a small media storm erupted in Winnipeg after an older couple was pulled over for driving and talking on a cellphone and given a ticket.

The only problem? The couple said they do not own a cellphone.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Social media

Some prefer doing it 'old school'

Devi Sharma opted for a ward office to "communicate best with my constituents," — something she says is unique on council.

"The worst is when you just set up (social media) accounts and then you're not using them, not engaging the people."

"I'm not on Twitter ...because I haven't even thought of it," laughed Thomas Steen, another City Hall rookie, "I have nothing against social media, but I'm also a little bit afraid of it to." SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

City council starting to take notice of social media... slowly

How to engage.
About half of city council members are on Twitter, and most are on Facebook.

SEAN LEDWICH
For Metro

Last week, after news broke of a Winnipeg property tax increase, Jenny Gerbasi tweeted an audio link to a 2010 election robocall of Sam Katz warning voters of a property tax increase.

It was a politician using social media to reach media, said Shannon Sampert, a professor of politics at the UofW who teaches Canadian mass media.

"She doesn't do that to talk to her constituents, she does that to talk to (media and pundits) who then talk on her behalf," Sampert said.

"It is smart. It is absolutely smart."

Sampert said social media has shown it can win elections, citing Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi as a recent example.

Bit ultimately, she said, it's about constituent contact, which can be just as effective offline.

"When it comes to getting people's votes we know, over and over again, that people at election time respond when an individual shows up at their doorstep."

Twitter and Facebook are "another way of psychologically" reaching that doorstep, Sampert said.

Rookie Coun. Devi Sharma has so far shunned social media, preferring instead to open a public office in her ward. She is not ruling out a future online expansion, but wants to first consider if she has time and, if so, how to do it.

Sampert said that, also, is smart.

"Devi may be correct in that she's looking at it with the perspective that it's time-consuming, and if you don't have time to do it, and to do it right, then don't do it at all."

Jenny Gerbasi has tweeted the most of any councillor, but a couple others aren't far behind. SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

Going online

Which council members are on social media?

- **On Twitter.** Brian Mayes, Jeff Browaty, John Orlikow, Mike Pagtakhan, Dan Vandal, Ross Eadie and Jenny Gerbasi. Mayor Sam Katz isn't on, but there are two parody accounts set up (@mayorkatz and @notSamKatz).
- **On Facebook.** All except Mayor Sam Katz, Devi Sharma and Harvey Smith.
- **On YouTube.** Only Ross Eadie has a YouTube channel.
- **Their own website.** All except Mayor Sam Katz, Devi Sharma, Thomas Steen and Harvey Smith.

For more local news visit metronews.ca/winnipeg

1 NEWS

On the web

Fragile Fukushima

Nearly one year after the tsunami hit Japan, the Fukushima power plant remains fragile, crews continue cleaning the city, and officials constantly test the food and water. See how residents are dealing with the fear of radiation: metronews.ca/video

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What would it cost Winnipeg taxpayers?

Transportation. Residents and an expert have their say on how system might work in our city

The idea of making Winnipeg Transit free is one that has come up several times over the years, and most recently at the Manitoba Bold talks, sponsored by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

But how much would it cost? We crunched some numbers to find out. We assumed three things: One, that ridership would be free for all of 2012; two, that ridership would continue to rise at the same rate despite the zero price tag; and three, that the revenue shortfall would be made up only by property taxes.

We know it's not a perfect number. But it's a starting point. Here's what we found:

ELISHA DACEY AND SHANE GIBSON

KYLE DRATOWANY/METRO

Current transit revenue through fares:
$73 million
Current money raised through property taxes for the city: $460 million
=$533 million
Properties in Winnipeg 200,000
Using those numbers we get:
Average property taxes currently $2,300
Average property taxes if we add in transit $2,665
Difference=$365
$1/day
So for a dollar a day, paid for by property owners, theoretically transit could be free.

Analysis

Service, not fares, the key to transit, Expert says

Dr. Barry Prentice, U of M professor and former director of the Transport Institute, follows transportation economics and logistics closely. He said instituting free fares would not increase ridership and the extra money could be spent more effectively.

"No, I would say take the $73 million and start building bus-ways everywhere, then you'd start getting people to use the bus," he said.

"It's not the cost that's keeping people away from the buses, it's the bad service."

METRO

People on the street

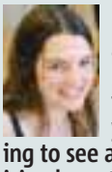
Q: If transit could be free for passengers at the cost of raising property taxes $1 a day, would you support it?

"I get a good price on this monthly pass as it is, and $30 a month is a lot of money."

Patrick Keating, 82

"We've got bus fares going up again, and it keeps going up and up for nothing. I think it would make sense."

Casandra Charles, 48



"I personally would, but I don't think you're going to see any politician have the guts to raise taxes that much for transit."

Marci Davidson, 25

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Good news for Winnipeg commuters. Province kills transit-fare hike

ELISHA DACEY
elisha.dacey@metronews.ca

Mayor Sam Katz says Winnipeg Transit riders will not see a fare hike come June. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Don't worry, commuters, you won't be paying an extra 20 cents to ride the bus in June.

A spokesperson for the province confirmed a letter has been sent to City of Winnipeg CAO Phil Sheegl stating that the province will not allow the current transit-operating agreement to be changed.

The proposed hike was supposed to come into effect on June 1, with the aim of allocating funds to the second phase of the city's rapid-transit corridor. But the present agreement with the province states that any money raised through fares must go to Winnipeg Transit's operating deficit, which sits at $40 million a year.

The suggested fare increase also sparked a large protest as it was tacked on to a council meeting in November without any public consultation or warning.

On Monday, the city's public-works committee voted down the fare hike from the city's operating budget. That decision still needs to be approved by council.

The city had hoped to have the second phase of rapid transit completed by 2016, but Mayor Sam Katz said Thursday the province's decision could put the project in jeopardy.

"We'd have to know (where funding will come from) sometime by the end of 2013, in my opinion," he said. "That's ample time, but I'll be honest with you, if something takes that long you have to wonder whether it's really going to happen."

Well, blow me down. High winds wreak havoc around Winnipeg

Gusting winds and a light dusting of snow made for whiteout conditions outside of Winnipeg on Thursday.

At least three major accidents happened before noon, the first two on the Trans-Canada Highway near the weigh scales at Headingley. RCMP Cpl. Miles Heiber said there was zero visibility, and when some cars slowed down or stopped, they were rammed by other vehicles.

Earlier in the day, at about 9:30 a.m., police were called to Route 90 after a semi and a car collided, sending two people to hospital. Both were reported to be in stable condition. Route 90 was closed until the vehicles could be towed away.

Inside the city, gusts of up to 70 kilometres an hour were clocked at the Winnipeg airport, and people were holding onto their hats.

Temperatures fell throughout the day and Friday was expected also to be windy, with gusts of up to 60 kilometres an hour, Environment Canada said.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

A woman battles the wind to cross Portage Avenue on Thursday afternoon. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Robber foiled

Good Samaritan stabbed

Police are looking for a suspect after a man was stabbed while trying to stop another man from breaking into a vehicle in the West End on Wednesday night.

Officers arrived at the 400 block of Cumberland Avenue and found a 36-year-old man with stab wounds to his upper body. The man told police he had been working in the area when he stepped in to stop the crime in progress.

The suspect is in his 20s with a light complexion and medium build, five foot seven, with short blond hair and wearing grey clothing.

Call police at 986-6668 or CrimeStoppers at 786-TIPS. METRO

Serial stickups

Alleged holdup artist nabbed

A man police say committed several commercial robberies over the past month is under arrest.

Matthieu Joseph Fortier, 25, was caught on Wednesday when officers stopped the taxi he was riding in near Nairn Avenue and Chester Street. The arrest came minutes after a gas-station robbery on Nairn.

Police allege Fortier was behind a number of robberies between Feb. 16 and March 7. He faces six charges of robbery and wearing a disguise with intent. METRO

North End bandit

Man arrested for armed robbery

A man is under arrest after two North End businesses were targeted by an armed robber.

On Jan. 22, officers were called to a store in the 1400 block of Main Street where a lone male suspect armed with a knife made off with cash and merchandise after confronting an employee. A similar scene unfolded two days later in a store in the 1300 block of Main Street. No one was injured.

On Wednesday, members of the Street Crime Unit and the Tactical Support Team located a male suspect near the 2000 block of Wellington Avenue and took him into custody. Brian Nathan Bird, 27, faces two counts of robbery with a weapon and two counts of wearing a disguise. METRO

Resort open until April 15th
Over 830 cm/27 feet of snow to date.
Dear friends and family,
Awesome conditions in the BC Rockies, having lots of fun! It's been so worth it to just book the time off work and school to have a break.
We skied the new lift to Polar Peak today. Spectacular Rocky Mountain views. You must get out here this season. Lots of events planned in Fernie for March and April - 80's Weekend, Ski Heritage Week and Fernival!
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Cash-strapped. Museum seeks more donations to keep its doors open

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

The Canadian Museum of Human Rights (CMHR) is asking donors for more money in order to have the building operational by 2014.

Although no official announcement has been made, the Globe and Mail said Thursday the fundraising arm of the museum's goal is now nearly $200 million.

"The issue is the cash flow," Gail Asper, national campaign chair of the Friends of the CMHR reportedly told the Globe on Tuesday.

"We can't take our foot off the gas pedal now."

The new goal is 35 per cent higher than the earlier capital campaign target of $150 million, and to date the museum has raised a little more than $130 million.

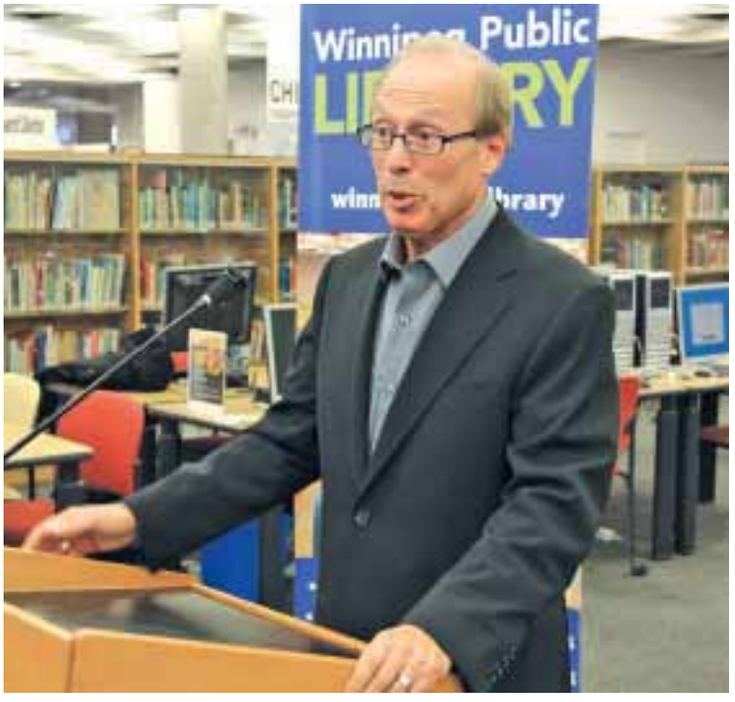
Construction was originally estimated to cost $265 million in 2007, but increased to $310 million in 2009, and sits at more than $350 million now.

The federal government — which has kicked in $100 million for construction and $21.7 million in annual operating support — has said it won't invest any more funds into the project.

By the numbers

The Canadian Museum of Human Rights has boosted its fundraising goals as it struggles to keep the building operational.

- **Fundraising.** The museum's goal is to raise nearly $200 million.
- **Aiming high.** This new fundraising goal is 35 per cent higher than before.
- **Initial goal.** The earlier campaign target was $150 million.
- **Existing funds.** The museum has raised a little more than $130 million.
- **Construction.** Construction costs have risen to more than $350 million.



NO LIBRARY FINES FOR A PERIOD OF TIME

The Winnipeg Public Library is turning a blind eye to anyone returning overdue library material starting Monday. Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz, pictured, joined Rick Walker, manager of library services, at the Millennium Library Thursday to announce an amnesty period from March 12 to 25, meaning patrons can return overdue books, videos and any other library materials, without paying fines. Following the amnesty period, libraries are implementing a change to their collection agency process that will target outstanding small balances between $25 to $40. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Social media policy

Bombers to get strict with Twitter after player's gaffe

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers are planning on strengthening their social media policy in the wake of a series of questionable Twitter posts from players over the off-season.

Defensive back Jonathan Hefney apologized Thursday for offending fans with comments on the social media website. The tweet involved some lewd comments and a link to a photo of a partially naked woman.

The team said it was grateful for the apology, but still plans to make policy changes when training camp opens in the spring.

"Obviously it wasn't detailed enough and it wasn't strict enough," Bombers spokesman Darren Cameron said of the policy.

Hefney sent "his deepest apologies" to fans and thanked them for their support. Previous tweets for slagging other teams — and even criticizing Bombers management — have landed Hefney in hot water before. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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*See store for details. Valid at any Winnipeg, Selkirk or Steinbach Canadian Tire store. Bonus card for future visits.

Kony website has raised more than $5M

Controversy. Video creator defends project on Toronto radio show

Jason Russell, director of the viral Kony 2012 video, responded to criticism of his humanitarian group, Invisible Children, on Thursday. He called in to the Roz and Mocha show on KiSS 92.5 FM.

So what's the last 48 hours been like?
Man, we haven't really slept.... The world's waking up to their potential.

When did you post this online? It now stands at 26.6 million views.
We posted this on Monday at noon ... and by that night it had 60,000 views and we were freaking out.

Anytime anyone asked me to put this on Facebook or re-tweet it, I had one question: why?
(People) don't know how to stop child soldiering ... but now things are changing because of technology.... This is about Kony, the world's worst criminal.... It would be an injustice if he actually was captured and nobody knew about it.

You have been criticized for your organization's finances and not having Africans on your board. What can somebody who buys a (sticker) on your website actually do to help?
I mean, putting up the sticker actually does help it because it awakens the consciousness of this world.

(Have any celebrities) responded to you?
Oprah Winfrey ... was the first one to tweet it out ... (and to) support us financially.... And then came more, Taylor Swift, Ryan Seacrest.... Justin Bieber just started tweeting about it.

How much money have you guys made off the website in the last 48 hours?
Over $5 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Viral video

26.6M

The video, which was posted on Monday, stood at 26.6 million views by Thursday morning.

Screen-grab from video.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More demonstrations

Student hurt in eye during Que. tuition protests

A student demonstrator feared losing sight in one eye Thursday, feeding an atmosphere of heightened tensions over Quebec's tuition-fee hikes.

There were more protests one day after 20-year-old protester Francis Grenier suffered a partially detached retina following the explosion of a police stun grenade during a demonstration Wednesday in downtown Montreal.

Some students taunted police by wearing eye-patches in reference to Grenier. There were also chants and a variety of hand gestures, ranging from two-fingered peace signs to one-fingered salutes.

"Police is everywhere, justice is nowhere," some chanted.

A day earlier, seven people were arrested during a pair of Montreal protests — the latest in a string of demonstrations by students who believe Quebec's rock-bottom tuition rates are a basic right. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Take Off $15
Nail Repair $5

Tinting Services
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Eyelash Tint $20

Additional Services
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Shellac Pedicure $45

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Pedicure $25
Deluxe Manicure $25
Deluxe Pedicure $35
Manicure & Pedicure $35
Deluxe Manicure & Pedicure $50

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Full Arm $25
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Brazilian $45
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Manager misused funds: Watchdog

Scandal. Critics question why bureaucrat who used public money to buy TVs, massages hasn't been prosecuted yet

A federal public servant charged massages as office supplies, put in for bogus expenses, took home flat-screen TVs paid for with office funds and used a government car as a personal vehicle, all while bullying and browbeating underlings.

These are among the findings of a damning report tabled Thursday by Public Sector Integrity Commissioner Mario Dion.

The case involves a western regional manager in Human Resources and Skills Development who is not otherwise identified.

Dion said lax policies allowed the manager to divert government equipment to a personal business, claim phoney expenses and cut sweetheart deals for family and friends, while terrorizing staff.

The manager also ignored rules about confidentiality and disclosed personal information about employees to other members of staff. As well, the manager used the passwords and access codes of employees who worked in different offices to make financial entries without their knowledge or consent.

The mess was uncovered after frightened public servants complained to Dion's office in February 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Corruption

The manager, who had been in the job for nine years, left the government during Dion's 2010 investigation, although the report doesn't say whether the bureaucrat was fired or quit.

- **The department says** it has tightened its procedures to keep closer track of spending and better monitor its staff. And it has recovered the TVs and other goodies the manager took home.

Alaska bear cub recreates famous Winnie-the-Pooh scene

This photo provided by Michael Keye Schuler shows a bear cub with its head stuck in a container Sunday, March 4, 2012 on top of Deer Mountain in Ketchikan, Alaska. Schuler was hiking when he found the cub on the summit, and was able to set it free.

COURTESY OF MICHAEL KEYE SCHULER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Censor. Pakistan's ad for firewall system worries free speech advocates

Pakistan is advertising for companies to install an Internet filtering system that could block up to 50 million Web addresses, alarming free speech activists who fear current censorship could become much more widespread.

Internet access for Pakistan's some 20 million Web users is less restricted than in many countries in Asia and the Arab world, though some pornographic sites and those seen as insulting to Islam are blocked. Others related to separatist activities or army criticism have also been, or continue to be, censored.

Few nations have so publicly revealed their plans to censor the Web as Pakistan is doing, however. Last month, the government took out newspaper and Web advertisements asking for companies or institutions to develop the national filtering and blocking system.

"They are already blocking a lot of Internet content, and now they are going for a massive system that can only limit and control political discourse," said Shahzad Ahmad, the director of Bytes for All Pakistan, which campaigns for Internet freedom. "The government has nothing to do with what I choose to look at."

The government doesn't currently list the sites it has blocked, or their number, or say who sits on the committee that decides what pages to shut down. Pakistan's Telecommunication Authority instructs the country's 50 Internet Service Providers to block sites. The ISPs, which receive their license from the PTA, are obliged to obey.

In November, the PTA ordered cellphone companies to block text messages containing a list of more than 1,500 English words it said were offensive. But the plan was dropped after public ridicule and complaints from cellphone companies about practicality. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People use the Internet at a local cafe in Islamabad, Pakistan.

B.K. BANGASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aung San Suu Kyr with John Baird

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aung San Suu Kyi's steely resolve

Aung San Suu Kyi used Thursday's visit of Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird to fire another round in her long fight for freedom — she warned of voter fraud threatening Myanmar's coming landmark elections.

With a steely resolve, the celebrated Nobel laureate warned that bogus voters' lists are threatening her country's tough road to democratic freedom. Baird, latest in a long line of international visitors, readily agreed.

The revelation added gravity to Baird's historic visit to Myanmar, also known as Burma, where he personally conferred honorary Canadian citizenship on Suu Kyi.

Emerging from nearly an hour of talks at her lakeside Yangon residence, where she has served 15 of the last 23 years under arrest, Suu Kyi disclosed the new threat to her historic campaign.

"We have just discovered there are many, many irregularities on the voters' lists and we have applied to the election commission to do something about this," Suu Kyi said, standing next to Baird on the back porch of her scenic sanctuary.

"A lot of dead people seem to be prepared to vote on the first of April. We can't have that, can we? And other things like that."

Baird's meeting with Suu Kyi capped a whirlwind day of travel on a visit to one of the world's international pariah states. Though he expressed optimism after meeting Myanmar's reform-minded leaders earlier in the day, the high-flying Canadian minister was clearly grounded after his meeting with one of world's most celebrated champions of freedom.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Porn star. Teacher's fate to be decided by peers after smut video

Educators must decide the fate of a school teacher placed on paid administrative leave amid claims that she appeared in a pornographic video.

The teacher at Richard B. Haydock Intermediate School in Oxnard, whose name was not released, went on leave Monday. A school site administrator believes she's the one seen in the video, Oxnard School District Superintendent Jeff Chancer said Wednesday.

The teacher's contract does not contain a moral turpitude clause, but Chancer said the California Education Code outlines employment conditions that could lead to her being disciplined or fired.

"We're trying to determine if there's a nexus on what she does on her own time and what she does in the classroom," he said.

Officials said no district students were seen in the video.

On Tuesday, the district sent a letter to parents of students at all three of its junior high schools, asking that their children not search Internet sex sites for the teacher's image.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia. Fans picket cop shop over protest band's arrest in Moscow

Supporters of a female Russian punk band have picketed police headquarters in Moscow to protest the group's jailing for trying to mount an impromptu concert inside the city's main cathedral.

Handfuls of people took turns braving below-freezing temperatures outside the building Thursday.

The group held up signs calling for the band's release.

The band, whose performers wear bright-colored homemade ski masks, entered Moscow's historic Christ the Savior Cathedral in late February and belted out a protest song against church leaders' support for then-presidential candidate Vladimir Putin.

Putin won the elections in a widely criticized vote Sunday.

Pussy Riot gained notoriety in January for performing a song addressed to Putin from a spot on Red Square.

Videos of the performance became an instant hit online. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A year after disaster, Japan still struggles

Fukushima. Somehow, life goes on in the shadow of shattered nuclear reactors

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

One year ago, an earthquake struck the waters off Fukushima, a quiet city in central Japan. The 8.9 tremor caused a tsunami, which hit the city's nuclear power plant. Within minutes, three of the plant's reactors overheated and released clouds of radioactivity.

"I was at home on my farm," recalls Tatsuko Ogawara, an organic farmer who lives 40 kilometres from the reactor.

"A geiger counter we bought 26 years ago showed radiation levels 30 times higher than normal. When this happened, I wanted to evacuate to western Japan with my children. However, I respected the decision our children made and decided to remain in our home."

The effects of the earthquake, tsunami and accident reached Tokyo.

One year later, Ogawara remains at her family farm — but the Fukushima region has changed. The 20-kilometre exclusion zone around the plant is a Chernobyl-like landscape inhabited only by animals.

"And a 13,000 square kilometre area is still contaminated above the international limit," says Jan Beranek, a nuclear expert at Greenpeace, who has measured the area's radioactivity.

"It will take three decades before the radioactive isotopes are broken down. Until then, the Fukushima region is a ticking time bomb. The contaminated water is especially dangerous, since it could leak and contaminate reservoirs."

For Ogawara, the radioactivity is a constant concern: "We have lost many customers due to radiation fears. And I'm very worried about the health of my children."

The Ogawaras' oldest daughter has already left Fukushima.

Health concerns

"The radiation levels of our crops are a big problem now." Tatsuko Ogawara, farmer

Fishermen work near debris at the port of Minamisanriku nearly a year after the March 11 tsunami hit the northeastern Japanese town. Much of the debris is from the former town centre. SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Analysis

Concerns divide families

Earlier this year Robert Knoth, a Dutch photographer, travelled to Fukushima to document residents' everyday lives.

"Even outside the exclusion zone, there are lots of empty villages," he says. "There are only a few people there who don't want to leave. Many have lived there for generations."

And the accident caused rifts in local families. "Young people didn't believe the government's claims that it was safe to stay," explains Knoth.

"They wanted to leave, but that caused conflicts because Japanese families act collectively."

Kenta Sato, a young Tweeter who worked for his father's company, quit his job and moved to Fukushima City. Now he lives on his savings, with no job prospects in sight.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Radio station's Euro-bride contest riles protesters

Controversial promo. Contest winners will get four dates in Prague through agency

ALY THOMSON
For Metro in Halifax

"Women cannot be won."

That's the message protesters were chanting outside Q104s headquarters Thursday in response to the radio station's controversial The Male is in the Czech contest.

About 30 people, both men and women, protested under the watchful eyes of Q104 employees, who looked down upon the protest from the top floor windows of their office on Kempt Road.

"Czech your privilege," "my gender is not a currency," and "end your show" were just of a few of the signs that protesters waved around a small patch of grass at intersection at Kempt and Lady Hammond Roads.

The station's contest - dubbed on the Q website as a "mail-order bride" giveaway - closed Thursday, which also happened to be International Women's Day.

Winners of the contest will fly to Prague, Czech Republic, where they will participate in four pre-planned dates through the Flying Hearts International Dating Service, which according to its website, gives men the opportunity to "meet many beautiful, educated and devoted Czech and Eastern European women ... for friendship, long-term relationship and marriage."

Derrick Dixon, an organizer of the protest, said the contest is sexist and wants the station to cancel it.

"It really saddens me that they are doing this," he said amongst the bustle. "It saddens me that it has come to this point where we're actually out here yelling at them to stop it." The protesters hailed a number of supportive honks from vehicles passing through.

But the station isn't making any apologies. J.C. Douglas, Q104's program director, said "while we welcome the publicity," he doesn't understand why the station is being associated with and sex trafficking.

"There's a difference between sexy and sexism," said Douglas.

Protesters rally against the Male is in the Czech promotion at Q104 Thursday afternoon. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Job market still looks grim to Canadian youth

Regardless how many jobs were created last month, one group of Canadians is almost certain to have fared badly — youth.

The consensus ahead of Statistics Canada's jobs report Friday morning was that 15,000 jobs were created countrywide in February, an indication of positive if modest economic growth.

But if employment surveys of the past few years are any guide, Canadians aged between 15 and 24 will be at a disadvantage.

The recession may be over for most Canadians, but workers or want-to-be workers in the youngest age group tracked by Statistics Canada continue to experience the economy as if the recovery had never happened, or as if it was still 2008And the younger you are in the age group, the bleaker the picture.

The finding was thrown into dramatic light Thursday in a paper from TD Bank economist Francis Fong, who points out that employment in the age grouping is still 250,000 below pre-recession levels.

By contrast, all other age groups have more than recovered from the overall 430,000 job loses of the 2008-09 slump. Workers 25 and above are more than 400,000 jobs to the good.

"Canadian youth are not facing the terrible prospects of their counterparts in Europe and the U.S.," says Fong, "nevertheless, it is clearly evident that Canadian youth are facing an uphill battle, which will persist for some time."

Historically, younger workers are hit hardest by recessions and Fong points out the age group actually took greater losses during the 1990-92 and 1981-82 slumps.

Nevertheless, Fong believes today's youth are facing some challenges unique to the times.

Unlike in the 1990s, many older Canadians are un-retiring because either they need to, or they simply want to work given that they are in better health and likely to live longer.

Many baby boomers are deciding Freedom 55 is not for them and just plan to stay working longer. Almost as difficult for youth, said Fong, is that the legacy of the recession can last for years.

Two separate studies, one in Canada and one from the United States, show that a one percentage point decline in the unemployment rate can result in six-to-seven per cent average decline in the initial wage for a youthful worker, and that it can take anywhere from 10 to 15 years to close the gap.

"When jobs are not abundant, graduating students wind up taking lesser jobs," Fong said. "It might take several years to find a job in the industry of choice and a lot longer to claw back what was lost in terms of wages."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Disadvantaged group

A recent TD Bank analysis of the job market found that Canadians over 55 were increasingly joining the labour force, and taking jobs in traditionally youth-oriented industries, such as retail.

- **Job trend.** The report also showed that even during the recession, the over-60 crowd actually gained 100,000 jobs while all other cohorts took on losses.

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Print scandal

Newspaper fined over racy photo

A Tunisian court has convicted and fined $660 the a newspaper for violating public morals by printing a photo of a football player's naked girlfriend.

The court ordered all copies of the issue destroyed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unwelcome guest

Students set up rival to DSK speech

Cambridge University students opposed to an appearance by Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the former IMF chief accused of sexual assault, have invited his accuser's lawyer to speak there the same day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

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Natural gas: $2.27 US (-3¢)
Dow Jones: 12,907.94 (+70.61)

Fiscal forecast

Bank of Canada holds interest rate

As widely expected, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney and his policy-setting team kept the trendsetting overnight interest rate at the highly stimulative rate of one per cent for the 12th consecutive date on Thursday. The central bank's upbeat tone Thursday appeared to cheer the markets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Media monitor

U.K. press regulator to be replaced

Britain's press regulator, much criticized amid a scandal over tabloid phone hacking, confirmed Thursday that it is to be abolished and replaced with a new body.

Author J.K. Rowling was one of several celebrities to criticize the regulator in testimony to Britain's media ethics inquiry, calling it "toothless." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling.
JOEL RYAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Controversial project

U.S. Senate rejects Keystone pipeline

TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline has been denied a lifeline thrown to it by congressional Republicans after the U.S. Senate narrowly rejected their attempts to force the approval of the project. A total of 56 senators voted Thursday in favour of the measure, four short of the 60 needed for approval. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raitt steps in to halt Air Canada work stoppage

Federal Labour Minister Lisa Raitt stepped in Thursday to prevent a work stoppage at Air Canada that would have thrown the travel plans of thousands of families into chaos at the beginning of a holiday week.

"Our government's concerned that the work stoppages are going to have an effect both on our national economy and of course on the Canadian travelling public," the minister said.

"We all know that it's March break, especially in Quebec, in Ontario and the following week after in British Columbia. And we know this can have an effect on Canadian families, especially since this is a really peak travel season."

Raitt sent the dispute between the airline and two of its unions — the pilots and ground crew — to the Canadian Industrial Relations Board to see how a work stoppage would affect the health and safety of Canadians.

"It is still a valid question to me, especially when it comes to passengers and cargo and that's exactly why we're going to be sending it over to the CIRB," Raitt said Thursday.

While the board reviews the case, the airline cannot lock out its employees and the unions cannot start a strike.

It is the same manoeuvre that Raitt used when it appeared Air Canada's flight attendants would go on strike last year, but the CIRB never made a decision on that matter.

Air Canada confirmed that there would be no disruption of service and its full schedule would remain unchanged.

Canada's largest airline had threatened earlier Thursday to lock its pilots out on Monday after they rejected the airline's latest contract offer, while the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, which represents ground crew and mechanics, had set a strike deadline on the same day.

An Air Canada pilot walks through the terminal at Stanfield International Airport in Halifax on Thursday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The pilots union and the machinists are the last two unions with which Air Canada needs to reach an agreement.

The pilots union has said it will put the airline's latest offer to a vote, but urged its members to reject the proposed agreement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Debt deal. Greek bond swap agreement likely

Greece government officials and world markets appeared confident that a high number of private investors would participate in a major Greek debt-reduction deal as the deadline to do so passed Thursday night.

The deal is aimed at slashing the country's national debt by $140 billion US, with private bondholders accepting a face-value loss of 53.5 per cent, in exchange for new bonds with more favourable repayment terms.

Initial results of participation in the exchange are due to be announced early Friday.

A government official said Thursday evening that as of Wednesday night, the takeup on the offer had already topped 75 per cent. He spoke on condition of anonymity pending official government announcements. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trade ties. Taiwan farmers protest U.S. beef imports

Thousands of Taiwanese farmers pelted waste and rotten eggs at a government building Thursday in protest of a plan to allow imports of U.S. beef containing a growth drug, challenging the island's president to "say no" to Washington.

Newly re-elected President Ma Ying-jeou is seeking to strengthen ties with the U.S. by resolving a long-running beef dispute that has stalled trade talks crucial to keeping up the island's competitive edge in global trade.

The Cabinet announced this week it plans to lift a ban on U.S. beef containing minimal traces of ractopamine, a feed additive for leaning meat. The government sought to appease opponents by promising to ensure that vendors properly label their meat products. The plan needs legislative approval. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WOMEN'S DAY, RUSH LIMBAUGH AND AN EXPLETIVE

THE LIST
Paul Sullivan
Metro

It's that time of the week again, when we roll out our list of the most amazing things happening. No use arguing … the decision of the judges is final.

1 **International Women's Day:** You've still got a long way to go, baby. Only 17 per cent of the corporate officers and 13 per cent of the directors in Canada's top 500 companies are women. That's because the men have done such a good job.

2 **The Abyss 2:** James Cameron, director of Avatar, Titanic and The Abyss, announced that he's building a special submarine to descend to the bottom of the sea. The Marianas Trench, to be precise, is the deepest point in the ocean, where the pressure is 1,000 times greater than on the surface. The difference from his last visit to the abyss: This time, if the sub starts to leak, he can't just yell "cut!"

3 **iPad X:** OK, so it doesn't deliver world peace. The Apple iPad released Wednesday does have a better screen, a better battery, better graphics and a better camera, and some people are still disappointed because it's not called iPad 3 or doesn't make toast. Geeks gone wild.

4 **Rush Limbaugh, you ignorant slut:** If the sponsors and affiliates leaping off the bandwagon are any indication, America's foremost big-mouth may have finally gone too far when he called a U.S. law student testifying before Congress a "slut" and a "prostitute," because she thinks it's a good idea for health care to pay for birth control. Sometimes the trouble with free speech is that you get what you pay for.

Rush Limbaugh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

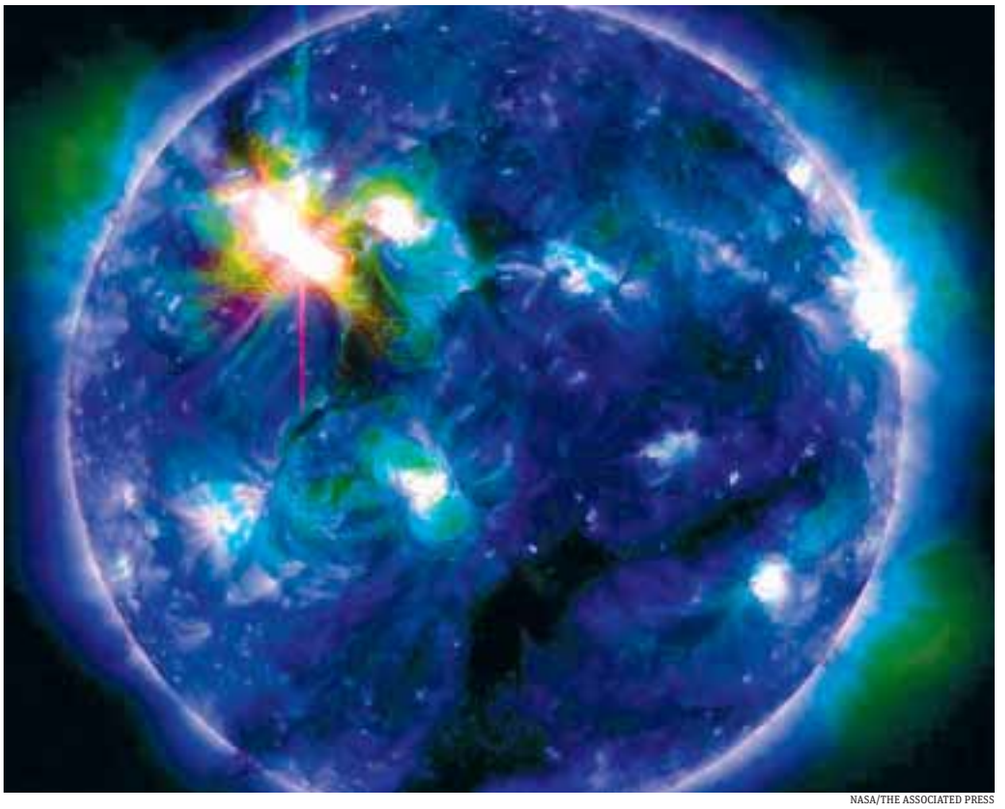
5 **Super Tuesday:** How many Republican presidential candidates does it take to screw in a light bulb? Anybody but Mitt Romney, apparently. Finding a Republican to give Barry Obama a run for his money takes even longer than the NHL playoffs. If we're lucky, Newt Gingrich and Don Cherry will both still be around in June.

Mitt Romney. GETTY IMAGES

6 **Just in time for spring break:** Air Canada's machinist union is either going to strike or the airline will lock them out. Oh, all those spring-break vacations we ruined? Too bad, so sad. Your flight is cancelled. Please call our helpless desk and we'll continue to ignore you as usual as we experience temporary labour difficulties.

7 **Bieber Watch:** Justin Bieber and I both have a birthday in the first week of March. To celebrate, he bought himself a $10-million Hollywood mansion, only slightly used by Ashton Kutcher. I bought myself a latte. It went down smooth. Even though he's now a man, he still has the voice of a boy. I wonder if that's why he called his signature fragrance "Someday."

Solar storm could flex its muscles yet



NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lucky planet

Storm gets off to benign start

One of the strongest solar storms in years engulfed Earth early Thursday, but scientists say the planet may have lucked out.

Hours after the storm arrived, officials said there were no reports of problems with power grids, satellites or other technologies that are often disrupted by solar storms. But that could still change. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Disruptions

- The storm is part of the sun's normal 11-year cycle, which is supposed to reach a peak next year. Solar storms don't harm people, but they do disrupt technology. During the last peak around 2002, experts learned that GPS was vulnerable to solar outbursts.
- Because new technology has flourished since then, scientists could discover some new systems are also at risk, said the director of the Center for Integrated Space Weather Modeling at Boston University.

Auroras

Earth dealt a good solar storm, this year

The storm could shake the planet's magnetic field in ways that could disrupt technology but also spread colourful Northern Lights.

Forecasters can predict the speed a solar storm travels and its strength, but the north-south orientation is the wild card. And this time, Earth got dealt a good card with a northern orientation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientist says

"It could flip-flop and we could end up with the strength of the storm still to come."

Joe Kunches
Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Center

Metropolitan Panel

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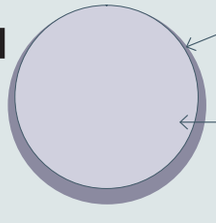

54% YES. I WANT TO MAKE MORE EDUCATED CHOICES

46% NO. LET ME ENJOY MY JUNK FOOD IN PEACE

Twitter

@TheAlMcLean: #Winnipeg is so windy today that police are giving tickets to litter for distracting drivers

@YihoSushiCafe: Snow, wind and cloud by morning; sunshine, cozy, beautiful day by the afternoon! Gotta love #winnipeg!

@SnappyBits: Honestly can't wait for tonight when everyone in Winnipeg who cheered for the Canucks last year realize why everybody else didn't. #douches

@Maz204: I wish I could see the City of #Winnipeg operating budget line by line and show them what they can cut without having to raise taxes.

@The_CheerBG: Co-work got his finger stuck in a chair and sclided it open pulling it out in a panic! #letitrip #lmao

metro

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Not even Eddie Murphy's charisma can save this lead-footed film. HANDOUT

This silence isn't golden

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

A Thousand Words.

Eddie Murphy's spiritual comedy needs some divine intervention

Richard: Mark, A Thousand Words is billed as a comedy but I see it as something else entirely. I see it as a tragedy — a tragic waste of Eddie Murphy's talent.

He's in virtually every scene but his wide-eyed mugging for the camera — there hasn't been this mugging on screen since the first Death Wish movie (only movie geeks will get that joke) — isn't funny, it's just annoying.

What did you think?

Mark: The movie isn't funny, period.

It has a lead foot and a tin ear. It felt like a middle period Jim Carrey movie like Liar, Liar or Yes Man, in which the main character has a supernaturally imposed rule that the comic has to follow that leads to some kind of enlightenment or personal growth.

Murphy's imposed silence in the movie robs him of his greatest gift — the gift of gab. So all he can do is pop his eyeballs and mime his lines. But, Richard, if the movie is this bad, why did it hold my interest?

RC: It didn't hold mine, but I would guess that you were responding to Murphy's charisma.

Even in terrible movies it's hard to take your eyes off him.

Although I have to say that I found this such an unpleasant movie-going experience that the loud fire alarm that rang intermittently in the theatre during the film was a welcome relief to what was happening on screen.

At least the fire alarm had some element of urgency to it, unlike the film, which seemed to think that allowing Murphy to pull faces at the camera for 90 minutes was enough to flesh out the story.

MB: Maybe it was just relief that he didn't wear the fat suit, or the glossy art direction, or the satirical pokes at pop spirituality.

It has one good scene, where he "speaks" by using the prerecorded voice in various kids' toys.

But the abrupt turn of mood in the last third of the movie, changing from tepid comedy to outright mawkish sentimentalism made me squirm — big time.

Sorry, but I don't need a lesson in family values from a guy whose track record on Hollywood Boulevard speaks for itself.

RC: Ha!

I can sum up my thoughts on A Thousand Words in far less than a thousand words: "Don't go. Save your money." You?

MB: Bad.

Synopsis

Teaming up with Norbet director Brian Robins again, Eddie Murphy plays Jack McCall, a fast talking literary agent who double-crosses new age guru Dr. Sinja (Cliff Curtis) on a book deal. Soon after, a magical Bodhi tree erupts through the ground in Jack's backyard. The tree will shed one leaf for every word McCall says, and after one thousand leaves have fallen, the true nature of the tree's curse will be revealed.

- Richard
- Mark

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Suing Seagal

Actor Steven Seagal and the Maricopa County sheriff's office are being sued over a 2011 arrest that a Phoenix-area man says was staged for a reality TV show. Jesus Llovera says Seagal and deputies unlawfully raided his home because they thought Llovera was raising fighting roosters. Llovera says the birds on his property were for show and not for fighting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

After Artist, French film's set for a new golden age, Harvey Weinstein says

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The Hunger Games opens on March 23. HANDOUT

The Hunger Games screenwriter talks about appeasing fans

Action. Simon Beaufoy feels the pressure of adapting a bestselling series of books into what could be a major movie franchise

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

While the release of The Hunger Games is still more than two weeks away, Academy Award-winning screenwriter Simon Beaufoy is already hard at work on the followup. In fact, he tells Metro, he's just turned in the first draft of his adaptation of Catching Fire to novelist and series creator Suzanne Collins. That's got to make a guy a little nervous.

"I think she's reading it possibly right now, the first draft. Could well be today," he says of Collins, whose own background has been helpful in the scripting process.

"Because Suzanne has been a film writer and a TV writer, funnily enough she's already done a lot of adapting for me. They'll cut my wage if you say that."

Beaufoy is no stranger to adaptation, with the Oscar-winning Slumdog Millionaire, 127 Hours and the upcoming Salmon Fishing in the Yemen among his credits.

But taking on an installment of the hugely successful Hunger Games series was still daunting.

"With this one, I had to be a lot more faithful also because there's a fan base who are more than usually keen that you get it absolutely right," he says.

"The Hunger Games' fan base are passionate beyond anything I've ever come across, and I would fear for my life [if I get it wrong]. If I do too free an adaptation of that, I shall get firebombed. So I'm being very careful of that."

Of course, not everything from a book can make it into a movie, so not every bit of Catching Fire will make it to the screen, which Beaufoy freely admits.

But he's cagey when it comes to details. "[Collins] just knows her audience brilliantly, and she'll say 'That bit you just can't cut out because they'll all go crazy.' And other bits she'll go, 'This is fine that you've changed this," Beaufoy explains.

"But she really knows her readers. And because she's been in the film world, she understands about adapting, that things have to go and things have to change."

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Commission de l'immigration et du statut de réfugié du Canada

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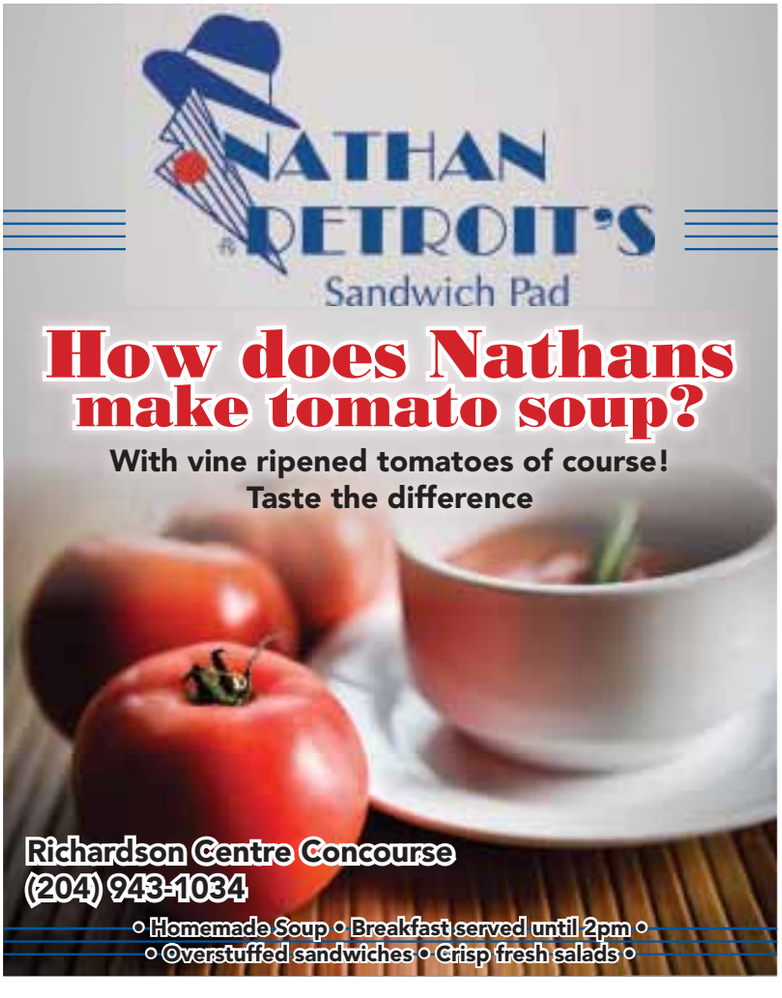
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No more Mr. Nice Guy

Comedy. Affable Jason Segel, star of Jeff, Who Lives at Home, dishes on the things he dislikes — and cats are on his hit list

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Jason Segel has cemented his reputation as Hollywood's reigning Nice Guy, and with his latest film, Jeff, Who Lives at Home, he takes that image even further, playing an unyieldingly optimistic loser living in his mother's basement who sees the good in everyone.

But there has to be something that makes Segel angry. As it turns out, he's not such a big fan of cats.

Your character in this is remarkably positive and open to life.
Yeah, he's a special guy. He's a watcher, and he's taking things in. He really does have an undaunted confidence that there is a purpose to his life, and that's a pretty courageous thing to believe. I think ultimately he doesn't know how to make sense of a terrible tragedy — his father died when he was young, and he just believes that there must be some reason for that.

In less careful hands, these could be pretty laughable, demeaned characters.
I think the goal was to have the tone of life. We weren't trying for broad comedy, we weren't trying for dark comedy, we were just trying for honesty. And the Duplass Brothers demand honesty, and that's what made me want to work with them. They roll the camera and they point it at you, and they don't say much. They'll let it roll for 40 minutes, and what sort of clicks in your mind is, "Well, I guess I'm supposed to do acting right now. They're not going to say cut. I claim to be an actor, I better do it."

We've never really seen you get pissed off about anything, but there must be something that pisses you off.
Yeah. When someone's rude to service staff, I get furious. That could just as easily be you. Who the f--- are you to tell a waiter to hurry up? I hate it. That's my big one.

If you didn't have an answer, I was going to ask you to say awful things about kittens.
Anyone who would say, "I don't have anything [that I hate]" is a liar. I am not a big fan of cats. I'm going to be controversial. I think they're entitled little bastards. You come home and a dog greets you at the door and is so happy to see you. A cat is just laying on your bed, has just done nothing all day, like, "Oh, hello..."

You have nearly 1 million Twitter followers. How do you wrap your mind around that?
I never say anything political or controversial. I tweet about food or me in a funny outfit. I think it's remarkable you say something like, "Sandwiches are better than burritos" and hundreds of thousands of people have an opinion; like they're ready to fight for it. "You don't like burritos? F--- you!" I think it's hilarious.

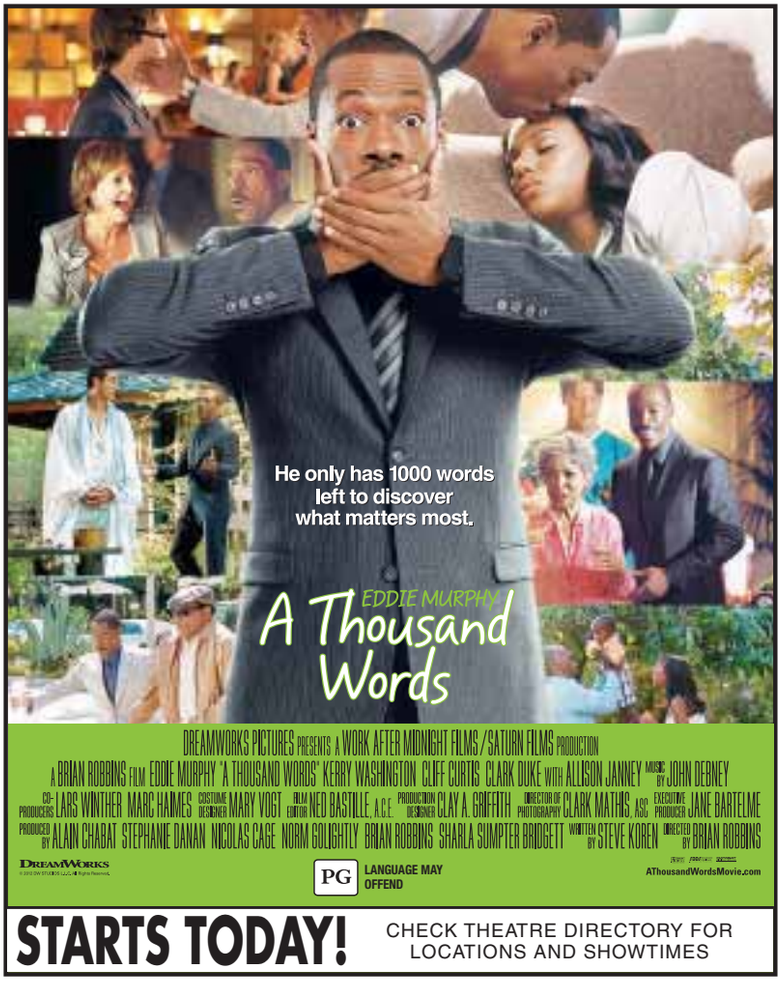
On The Muppets

It's been announced that a Muppets sequel is in the works. But this project won't involve Jason Segel.

- "I worked very hard on this for half a decade. I just wanted a little Muppet break for a minute. Someday I may come back and do something, but I felt like I did what I set out to do, and now I'd like to do some more human-related projects," says Segel.

As for the fact that The Muppets received no Golden Globe nominations and only two best song nominations at the Oscars, Segel has this to say: "We're living in Cuckoosville, and I'm very lucky to be successful, but it's not the kind of stuff I get worked up about. As I've gotten older, the things I care about have really narrowed, and it's like my friends and my family. It's not awards season."

Jeff, Who Lives at Home opens next Friday. HANDOUT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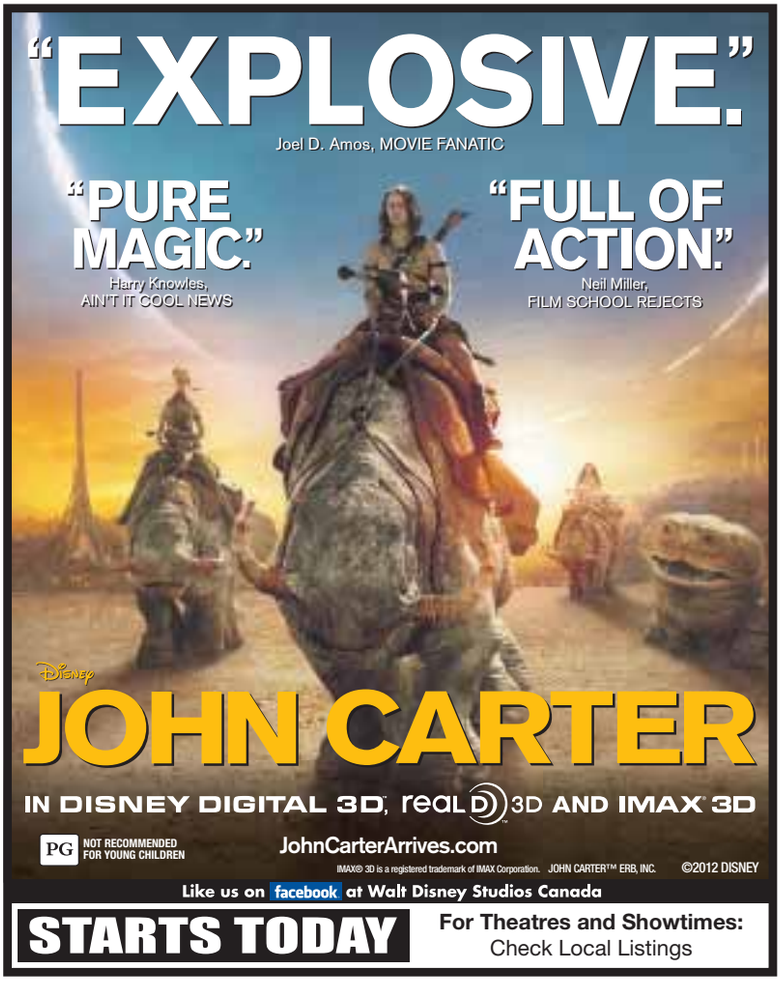
"EXPLOSIVE."
Joel D. Amos, MOVIE FANATIC
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Horror

Silent House

Directors. Chris Kentis, Laura Lau

Stars. Elizabeth Olsen, Adam Trese, Eric Sheffer Stevens

It's an interesting idea, you have to give it that. Based on the Uruguayan film La Casa Muda, Silent House follows a moody young woman (Elizabeth Olsen) as she's haunted and terrorized in a country house she, her father and her uncle are renovating before selling. And when I say "follows," I mean it literally: Silent House is presented in real time, as one continuous take, which can be interesting except for those moments when Olsen has to wait while the cameraman gets out of her way on the stairs.

The film uses its main device to good effect in for the first half of its 88-minute running time, but as the tension continues to ratchet up and clues about what exactly the hell is going on here emerge, the whole thing starts to unravel.

NED EHRBAR

Action

John Carter

Director. Andrew Stanton

Stars. Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins, Willem Dafoe, Samantha Morton

It turns out there *is* life on Mars — and John Carter aims to save it.

Based on the novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs, the film follows Carter (Canada's own Taylor Kitsch), a former American Civil War captain who now spends his days searching for gold. But when Carter happens upon a special medallion that transports him to Barsoom (the planet we Earthlings call Mars), Carter is forced to fight again. On Barsoom, Carter discovers he can jump vast distances — a trick that interests the Tharks, the native inhabitants of the planet who take Carter prisoner. After escaping, Carter tries to make his way home but finds himself drawn into the fight for the future of Barsoom.

There are some impressive graphics, but the film lacks a coherent storyline, runs about 30 minutes too long and, despite the epic battle scenes, fails to capture your attention.

REGAN REID

Drama

A Separation

Director. Asghar Farhadi

Xxx. Peyman Moadi, Leila Hatami

Unable to find a compromise between educating their daughter abroad and caring for a husband's sick father, an Iranian couple separates. The subtitles don't detract from the slow unraveling of this family's world as good intentions wreak havoc on the people around them. Director Asghar Farhadi proves skilled at building tension out of small moments in this film, which won the Golden Globe for best foreign language film this week. The story asks a lot of questions about the decisions we make in the interests of our loved ones.

IAN GORMELY

Katy Butler, a one-time victim of Bullying delivers petition signatures to the MPAA's office. JONATHAN ALCORN/REUTERS

Bully slapped with 'R' rating

Documentary. Filmmaker upset that movie may not be accessible to the crowd it aims to educate; petition sent to MPAA

Lee Hirsch had a violent, nightmare middle school experience. Every day multiple students would punch him to the point where his arms were no longer black and blue—they were just plain yellow.

"I had a really hard time communicating the urgency (for help)," he says, looking back on the experience. "It was very difficult and painful. I couldn't find an adult or my parents who were willing to help me make it stop."

He's grown up, but Hirsch, a successful Sundance and Emmy-award winning director, is revisiting those painful days once more.

In his new documentary Bully follows the stories of five children and their families, showing how bullying has affected their lives.

But, even though it was intended to be an educational tool, Bully is garnering controversy. After being submitted to the MPAA, the governing body that issues American Film Ratings, the board decided to slap the film with an R-rating because the obscene language was used multiple times. This means anyone under 17, the vast majority of the people who Hirsch hopes to affect with this film, will need an adult to come with them to see the film.

"I was surprised and devastated," Hirsch said. "This is a film that has been vetted by multiple educational organizations…. This film was not designed to be an R-Rated movie, and to have it rated R is clearly an obstacle."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Becoming Sarah Palin

TV movie. To step into the hockey jersey of the 2008 vice presidential candidate in the HBO film Game Change, actress Julianne Moore's homework included voice lessons and watching reality TV

AMBER RAY
Metro World News in New York

Game Change, the best-selling account of the 2008 presidential election by Mark Halperin and John Heilemann, only dedicates a portion of its chapters to John McCain's selection of Sarah Palin as his running mate.

But that polarizing moment is the focus of the HBO film Game Change, which stars Ed Harris as McCain, Woody Harrelson as his campaign strategist Steve Schmidt, and Julianne Moore as their "star" — the then-relatively unknown but charismatic Palin.

Moore captures the likeness of the former Alaska governor with uncanny precision — without devolving into a Saturday Night Live parody.

"It's a daunting task to play somebody who is not only a living figure, but a hugely well-known one," Moore says. "So, for me, the most important thing was accuracy."

The actress put a "tremendous amount of research" into understanding America's most famous hockey mom, including, she says, reading "everything I could get my hands on."

At the top of her list was Palin's memoir, Going Rogue: An American Life, as well as Blind Allegiance to Sarah Palin: A Memoir of Our Tumultuous Years by Palin aide Frank Bailey, and, of course, Game Change.

Moore also watched hours of footage of Palin on the campaign trail, and even had video on hand while filming scenes to nail the candidate's physicality.

"We would sometimes have the computer there when I was doing the debates to watch things very precisely, like beat by beat, to get the gesture just right," Moore explains.

But the first thing the actress did was hire a vocal coach.

"(Palin) has an incredibly idiosyncratic way of speaking," Moore says, "and I really felt I needed to capture that. We are all very familiar with her and with those sort of iconic moments. I mean, it was just four years ago."

Momma bear moment

"I chased down an ice skating coach once because they messed up the music to my daughter's program."

Julianne Moore on her own Sarah Palin-like "momma bear" moment

'Moments of real brilliance'

The unveiling of Sarah Palin as John McCain's running mate in the 2008 presidential election certainly was a "game changer."

• "I think the whole country took a collective gasp, like, 'Who is she? Where is she from?'" Moore muses.

• "She was so incredibly charismatic, so unbelievably able to communicate, and a true populist. And in a country where most of our leaders have been Ivy League educated white men, suddenly here was this working class mother who just popped out and seemed to be able to command the world."

• In studying Palin, Moore says she developed "profound respect for the historical nature of her candidacy." But upon further inspection, Palin didn't have "the experience necessary to be able to lead our country as vice president or potentially president of the United States," Moore says.

• "So that's what we were attempting to dramatize [in the film] — her moments of real brilliance, of populism, of charisma, and her lack of experience."

Game Change, starring Ed Harris and Julianne Moore, premieres Saturday at 9 p.m. ET on HBO. PHILLIP V. CARUSO

Studying Palin

"One of the things that I watched was her reality show, Sarah Palin's Alaska, to kind of familiarize myself with the family and with her family dynamic. And, you know, that was, frankly, adorable. I mean, she's really a very caring, very involved parent."

Julianne Moore

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Winnipeg

Cinema City McGillivray
2190 McGillivray Blvd., 204-269-9981

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-7:10-9:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:20-9
Big Miracle (G) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:30-10:05
Contraband (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:40-10:10
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30-8:10
Haywire (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40
The Help (PG) Fri-Thu 9:20
Man on a Ledge (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-5-7:50-10:15
The Muppets (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40-6:45
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-6:40-9:10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:55-7-9:50
Underworld: Awakening 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:20-10
We Bought a Zoo (G) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-6:50

Cinema City Northgate
1399 McPhillips Street, 204-334-6234

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri 3:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50 Mon 5:20 Tue 3:20 Wed-Thu 5:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G) Fri 4:40-6:50-9 Sat-Sun 2-4:40-6:50-9 Mon 5:50-8 Tue 4-6:20-8:40 Wed-Thu 5:50-8
Big Miracle (G) Fri 4:10-6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:10 Mon 5:40-8:10 Tue 3:40-6:10-8:50 Wed-Thu 5:40-8:10
Contraband (18A) Fri 4-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-7:10-9:40 Mon 6-8:20 Tue 3:30-6:50-9:20 Wed-Thu 6-8:20
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG) Fri 3:40-6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon 5:10-7:50 Tue 3:10-6-8:40 Wed-Thu 5:10-7:50
Man on a Ledge (PG) Fri-Sun 6:40-9:30 Mon 7:30 Tue 6:40-9:10 Wed-Thu 7:30
Puss in Boots (G) Fri 4:20 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20 Mon 5:30 Tue 4 Wed-Thu 5:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Fri-Sun 6:20-9:10 Mon 7:40 Tue 5:40-8:30 Wed-Thu 7:40
Underworld: Awakening (18A) Fri 4:30-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7-9:40 Mon 6-8:30 Tue 3:50-6:30-9 Wed-Thu 6-8:30
We Bought a Zoo (G) Fri 3:40-6:10-8:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:10-8:50 Mon 5:20-8 Tue 3:10-5:50-8:30 Wed-Thu 5:20-8

Cinematheque
304-100 Arthur, 204-925-3457

Listings not available at press time.

City Cinema - Northgate
1399 McPhillips, 204-334-6234

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri 3:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50 Mon 5:20 Tue 3:20 Wed-Thu 5:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G) Fri 4:40-6:50-9 Sat-Sun 2-4:40-6:50-9 Mon 5:50-8 Tue 4-6:20-8:40 Wed-Thu 5:50-8
Big Miracle (G) Fri 4:10-6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:10 Mon 5:40-8:10 Tue 3:40-6:10-8:50 Wed-Thu 5:40-8:10
Contraband (18A) Fri 4-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-7:10-9:40 Mon 6-8:20 Tue 3:30-6:50-9:20 Wed-Thu 6-8:20
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG) Fri 3:40-6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon 5:10-7:50 Tue 3:10-6-8:40 Wed-Thu 5:10-7:50
Man on a Ledge (PG) Fri-Sun 6:40-9:30 Mon 7:30 Tue 6:40-9:10 Wed-Thu 7:30
Puss in Boots (G) Fri 4:20 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20 Mon 5:30 Tue 4 Wed-Thu 5:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Fri-Sun 6:20-9:10 Mon 7:40 Tue 5:40-8:30 Wed-Thu 7:40
Underworld: Awakening (18A) Fri 4:30-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7-9:40 Mon 6-8:30 Tue 3:50-6:30-9 Wed-Thu 6-8:30
We Bought a Zoo (G) Fri 3:40-6:10-8:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:10-8:50 Mon 5:20-8 Tue 3:10-5:50-8:30 Wed-Thu 5:20-8

Famous Players Kildonan Place
1555 Regent Ave W, 204-663-2166

Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-2:50-5-7:10-9:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 6-8:30
Goon (18A) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:50-8
John Carter (PG) No Passes Fri 6:30-9:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:30-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Silent House (14A) Fri 7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:40
The Vow (STC) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:50-4-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10
Wanderlust (14A) Fri 6:20-8:50 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:20-8:50 Mon-Thu 5:30-8

The Lorax features the voices of Danny DeVito and Zac Efron. HANDOUT

Grant Park 8 Cinemas
1120 Grant Ave., 204-453-4084

The Artist (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:10-7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:10-7:15-9:50
The Descendants (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:55-7:05-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:55-3:55-7:05-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:55-7:05-10:10
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:05-7:20-9:40
Hugo 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:50-6:55-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:55-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-6:55-10
The Iron Lady (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:15-7:30-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:30-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:15-7:30-10:15
John Carter (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45
John Carter 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:55
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:35-6:40-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:35-6:40-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:35-6:40-9:45
Wanderlust (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:35-3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30

IMAX Theatre at Portage Place
Y003-393 Portage Avenue, 204-956-4629

Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Sat 12:30 Sun 12 Mon 1:15
Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Tue 12:15 Wed 1:15
Cosmic Voyage (STC) Wed 11 Thu 10
Egypt 3D: Secrets of the Mummies (STC) Tue 11:15 Wed 10 Thu 1:15
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Sat 1:30 Sun 1 Mon 12
Greece: Secrets of the Past (G) Fri 12 Mon 10 Thu 12:15
Hubble 3D (G) Wed 12:15 Thu 11:15
The Human Body (STC) Fri 10 Mon 11 Tue 10
The Magic of Flight (STC) Fri 11
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat 2:45-7:30 Sun 2:15 Thu 7:30
Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey (STC) Tue 2:45
Tornado Alley 3D (G) Fri 1:15 Sat 6:15 Thu 6:15

Landmark Globe Cinema
393 Portage Ave, 204-943-1583

The Artist (PG) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:40-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40
A Separation (STC) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
We Need to Talk About Kevin (18A) Fri 7:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:50-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:50
Landmark Towne Cinema 8
301 Notre Dame Avenue, 204-947-2848
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Sat-Sun 3:30
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (14A) Sat-Sun 4
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D (14A) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30
Goon (18A) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30
John Carter (PG) Sat-Sun 3:30
John Carter 3D (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Project X (18A) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30
Silent House (14A) Fri 7:15-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:45-7:15-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:20
A Thousand Words (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

SilverCity Polo Park
815 St. James Street, 204-774-1001

Act of Valor (14A) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:05-4:45-7:35-10:15
Bolshoi Ballet: Le Corsaire Live (STC) Sun 1
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:30-4:50-7:20-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 2-4:15-6:45-9:05
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) No Passes Fri 12:55-3:20-5:40-8-10:15 No Passes Sat 11-1:05-3:20-5:40-8-10:15 No Passes Sun 12:55-3:20-5:40-8-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 1-3:15-5:30-7:45-10
Friends With Kids (STC) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:35 Mon-Tue 1:25-4:05-6:55-9:35 Wed 4:05-6:55-9:35 Thu 1:25-4:05-6:55-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-5:50-8:25-10:55 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:55-10:25
Goon (18A) Fri 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Sat 1:15-3:30-5:45-8:15-10:45 Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:10-5:30-8-10:30
John Carter (PG) No Passes Fri 2-5-8-11 No Passes Sat 11:05-2-5-8-11 No Passes Sun 2-5-8-11 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
John Carter: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:50
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:55-4:30-7-9:25
Project X (18A) Fri 1:30-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:50 Sat 11:30-1:30-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:50 Sun 1:30-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:50 Mon-Thu 12:55-3:15-5:35-8-10:20
Safe House (14A) Fri 2-4:45-7:25-10:10 Sat 11:15-2-4:45-7:25-10:10 Sun 2-4:45-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:10
Shrek (G) Sat 11
This Means War (PG) Fri 4:40-10 Sat 5:55-10:55 Sun 10 Mon-Thu 4:40-10
A Thousand Words (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:05-5:30-7:50-10:20 Sun 12:30-2:45-5:30-7:50-10:20 Mon-Tue 2:15-4:35-7:10-9:40 Wed 4:35-7:10-9:40 Thu 2:15-4:35-7:10-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Vow (STC) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:30-5:05-7:35-10:05 Sun 5:05-7:35-10:05 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:55 Wed 1:15-4-9:55 Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:55
William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night (STC) Sat 12:45
Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (STC) Wed 7
The Woman in Black (14A) Fri 2:10-7:15 Sat 8:25 Sun-Tue 2:10-7:15 Wed 2:10 Thu 2:10-7:15

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Bolshoi Ballet: Le Corsaire Live (STC) Sun 1
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 1-4-6:40-9:10 No Passes Thu 4-6:40-9:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:40-4:50-7:10-9:40
Goon (18A) Fri-Thu 2:10-5-7:50-10:20
John Carter 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:40
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4-6:50-9:20
Project X (18A) Fri-Thu 2-5:10-8-10:30
Safe House (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:20-10
Silent House (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-10:20
This Means War (PG) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:30 Sun 4:10-6:50-9:30 Mon-Wed 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:30 Thu 4:10-6:50-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Vow (STC) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:50-7:40-10:10 Sun 1:20-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:50-7:40-10:10

Sound Check

What Apple should do now

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Dear Tim Cook:

As the guy entrusted with guiding Apple after Steve's ascent to an insanely greater plane of existence, I sympathize with the burden on your shoulders. What can you do to keep Apple on this upward trajectory? If I may make a suggestion, I have an idea about music in my car.

Having looked virtually at all the new in-dash infotainment systems, I've come to the conclusion that none of them are as good as they should be. Yes, things have improved over the last couple of years, but there's still a lot of work to be done.

Every time I plug my iPhone into my car, I'm frustrated that the display in my dash doesn't look or operate anything like the display on my phone. I can browse for songs and playlists but there's nothing in the interface that allows me to find audio books or podcasts.

There's voice control, but compared to what Siri can do, it sucks. There's nothing that reads incoming texts to me. Nothing in my iPhone interfaces with the brains of the car, either, Tim. The trip computer doesn't talk to the phone and the two GPS systems might as well be operating on different planets.

In other words, just like the old days of the personal computer. Remember the mess in the '80s? DOS. Windows. Mac. BeOS. Commodore. Amiga. It was an OS nightmare with each system requiring its own learning curve. It wasn't until we settled down into a standardized world — mostly Windows, of course — that the masses began to get comfortable with computers.

This is the chaos we see in cars today. Ford's SYNC, Kia's UVO and Entune from Toyota are all based on a Microsoft platform called Windows CE-based Windows Automotive Embedded System 7 — but all look and work differently. Others are working with QNX, a company owned by Research In Motion. None look likes the other.

What we need, Tim, is a good ol' Window vs. Mac battle in the car. Better user interfaces. Standard communications protocols. More than 20 per cent of smartphone users already plug their devices into their dashboards and that rate of adoption is skyrocketing. Talk about a market waiting to be exploited!

But what's this about you starting to hire automotive engineers? That's the rumour, anyway. Could it be you've already thought this through?

Your friend, Alan

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Sienna Miller admits she's expecting, but don't ask for details

Sienna Miller has confirmed to Vogue UK that she's with child.

"I'm in my second trimester, so I'm I-can-talk-about-it pregnant, even though I'm under strict instructions not to say anything," the actress says. "I'm feeling fine. It's all progressing very nicely and it's very exciting."

So why stay mum? Miller — who has been campaigning for privacy rights after being stalked by paparazzi and getting caught up in the News of the World phone-hacking scandal — says she doesn't want to contradict herself.

"[Speaking about my pregnancy] would completely defeat the point of everything I've tried to achieve in the last eight years," she explains. **METRO**

Sienna Miller

Jessica Simpson almost went on a bender while she was first preggo

Jessica Simpson says she found out she was pregnant thanks to some intuition right before a planned day of binge-drinking.

"We were going to have an all-day drinking binge," Simpson tells Elle magazine. "Going to ride our bikes, hang out, do naughty things. But I started feeling this overwhelming guilt. Why would I feel guilt at the idea of going out and having cocktails with my friends?"

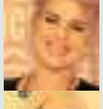
Somehow she knew to take a pregnancy test, which obviously put the drinking marathon on hold.

"I'm a free-spirited girl, but giving up my scotch? My Macallan 18? That was hard for me," Simpson says of being pregnant. **METRO**

Jessica Simpson

Twitter

@justinbieber
what were we talking about again?


@MissKellyO
I hate tweeting from my phone the predictive texting drives me CRAZY!

@ladygaga
I told you MINT would be big in fashion this spring. Naturally, I will continue to wear black. (perpetual mourner)

@JoelMcHale
How disturbed should I be that my 3 year old uses the word "assassin" in casual conversation?

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Does Will have a special friend?

Star magazine flames the fire on Will Smith sexuality rumours

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Star magazine is throwing their tabloid hands in the air and are just going for it. This week's cover story isn't shocking for what they're writing about, but rather what they're implying.

In a screaming headline that proclaims Will & Jada's Divorce Secret: The Man Who Came Between Them! the magazine goes on to say that Duane Martin, Tisha Campbell-Martin's husband, and Will Smith are just way too close, going on vacations to Miami, Trinidad and Las Vegas together.

A "source" practically outs Smith:"Jada can't stand Will's relationship with Duane. She feels like Will flaunts it in her face, hanging out with him every day and taking him on exotic vacations while she's sitting home alone. Will and Jada's marriage is completely fractured, and it's only getting worse as Will spends more time away with Duane. I don't know how much longer they can live this way. It's only a matter of time until one of them makes the split official and files for divorce."

Of course, there have been whispers about both Will and Jada's sexuality for years, but no magazine has so blatantly gone there.

Unless, of course, I'm just totally reading into this and it's super hetero to go on a myriad of exotic vacations with just your best friend and not your wife?

Will Smith. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Ashley Olsen says she's done with acting

While her younger sister, Elizabeth Olsen, is making a name for herself as an actress, former child star Ashley Olsen says she's done with on-camera work.

"[Mary-Kate and I] worked non-stop until we were 18. Then we decided to take a break and go to school — and that was when we decided to question whether we would carry on in entertainment," Ashley tells Elle UK.

"It was time to step behind the process. I wanted to work on other things. It doesn't mean I'm not interested in Hollywood, I like the way it operates and the people who are involved and the sense of possibility. But if I ever do get back in, it's not going to be as an actress."

There's no word if twin sister Mary-Kate feels the same way. **METRO**

Ashley Olsen

Sandra Bullock

Brett Ratner

Just say no to Bullock and Ratner

Sandra Bullock and director Brett Ratner want to make it clear that they are not hooking up, no matter what the tabloids say.

In Touch reported that the pair had been seeing each other for weeks before offering up some public displays of affection at an Oscars party. But Bullock and Ratner beg to differ: "We think that it's incredibly sad that in these times, this magazine would resort to complete fabrication, solely for financial gain," the two say in a joint statement. "There is not a shred of accuracy in their story. We have not seen nor spoken to each for over a decade. We both had a great time after the Oscars, just not with each other." **METRO**

Amanda and Josh secretly dating: Us Weekly

Despite claims last month that she's happily single, Amanda Seyfried has reportedly been dating Josh Hartnett since January, according to Us Weekly.

The pair were set up by a mutual friend, sources say, and for now the relationship has been fairly casual.

"Josh likes to keep things low-key, so they've just been hanging out," a source says. **METRO**

Josh Hartnett

Amanda Seyfried

Ever wanted to see Hulk Hogan naked? Well, now, maybe you can.

The latest celebrity to have to deal with the leak of a purported personal sex tape? Hulk Hogan.

A video allegedly featuring the wrestling veteran and an unidentified woman — though not his ex-wife or his current wife — is reportedly being shopped around to adult film outlets, according to TMZ.

A lawyer for Hogan (whose real name is Terry Bollea) says his client is mortified.

"Terry Bollea is appalled at the unauthorized release of a secretly filmed video," attorney David Houstan says.

"He neither approved of the filming nor the release of the same. It is clearly an outrageous invasion of privacy and breach of trust if it is genuine. We will take all necessary steps to enforce both civil and criminal liability." **METRO**

Hulk Hogan

These aren't your mom's ham & cheese sandwiches

Guinness Marinated Flank Steak Sandwiches with Grilled Onions and Boursin Cheese

Serve this dish as a meal with boiled potatoes and cabbage. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guinness Marinated Flank Steak Sandwiches. This creation uses grilled onions and creamy Boursin cheese

The depth of flavour from the Guinness marinade in this recipe is enhanced by a touch of rich herb and garlic cheese that melts on the hot steak and onions.

Freeze the cheese to make it easier to shave just enough on the top of the grilled steak and onions. This prevents too much cheese from being layered on.

Onions are easier to grill without falling apart if you skewer them before cooking. Cut an onion into 1-cm (1/two-inch) thick slices. Thread the centre of each onion with a bamboo skewer that has been soaked in water. Place the onion skewers on the cooking grates and turn once halfway through cooking.

1 Use paper towels to pat steak dry, then set it in a glass or stainless-steel container with a tight cover. Pour Guinness over steak. Set onion slices on top of steak, then cover container and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours.

2 Heat a gas or charcoal grill to medium. Set cheese in freezer. Remove meat and onions from marinade and pat dry. Brush everything with a thin coat of olive oil, then season with salt and pepper. Place steak and onions on cooking grate over direct heat and sear for 6 to 8 minutes. Turn steak and onions and sear on second side for another 6 to 8 minutes. (Alternatively, you also can sear steak and onions on a stovetop grill or grill pan for several minutes per side, then finish cooking in a 180 C/350 F oven set on a rack over a sheet pan.)

3 Transfer steak and onions to a platter. Remove cheese from freezer and use a vegetable peeler or paring knife to shave Boursin on top of steak and onions. Cover with foil and set aside. Brush each slice of bread with oil, then grill them until lightly toasted, 1 to 2 minutes. Thinly slice steak, then assemble sandwiches with bread, steak and onions. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL, A GRILLING AND SOUTHERN FOODS EXPERT AND EXECUTIVE CHEF AT HILL COUNTRY BARBECUE MARKET RESTAURANTS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS HILL COUNTRY CHICKEN IN NEW YORK. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SOAKED, SLATHERED AND SEASONED.**

Ingredients

4 portions
Start to finish: 30 minutes active (plus 1-2 hour marinating)

- 1-kg (2-lb) flank steak or London broil, at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) thick
- 1 can (441 ml/14.9 oz) Guinness beer
- 2 large red onions, cut into 1-cm (1/2-inch) thick slices
- 1 small container Boursin cheese
- Olive oil
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper, to taste
- 8 thick slices country bread

Liquid Assets

1 tequila, 2 tequila, 3 tequila, floor

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.cca

When I was in university my party favour of choice was tequila. Nobody drank it seriously back then so I would channel my inner Charlie Sheen by bumming a beer and throwing back a few shots in-between sips of brew.

It sure impressed the ladies. At least I think it did. I can't seem to remember. Either way, I still have an affinity for Mexico's native spirit though today I'm more into how it mixes in cocktails.

I love the margarita because it's so easy make (all you need is tequila, Triple Sec orange liqueur and some lime juice) and it's one cocktail that really allows the booze elements to show through the mix.

A tequila purist would insist on the use of a white style as they typically do south of the boarder. I still prefer a gold tequila's richer flavour in my margs.

Tequila Cazadores Reposado ($34.95 - $39.99) is made with 100 per cent Blue Agave (the plant from which all true tequila is born) and is aged in new barrels (rather than the usual used bourbon casks). This all helps to enhance the spirit's citrusy aroma and up-front vegetal/ spice expression. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Pancetta meets hummus & tomatoes

One of the most widely available yet overlooked types of bacon is pancetta. A close relative of American bacon, it is the Italian version.

Typically made from the belly, the curing process is the same but the meat is not usually smoked. During curing, it is often seasoned with black pepper, cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and herbs. Slabs of pancetta are usually rolled into a log when sold at the deli.

Here, salty pancetta combined with creamy hummus makes for a twist for an appetizer to serve up with drinks.

Look for an aged balsamic vinegar to help bring out the sweetness of the tomatoes.

1 In skillet over medium-high heat, cook pancetta 5 mins. or until crispy and browned. Remove skillet from heat and add hummus, mixing well.

2 Thickly slather a quarter of the hummus-pancetta mixture over each slice of bread. Top each with 1 or 2 slices of tomato and a quarter of the red onion.

3 Drizzle each sandwich with balsamic vinegar, then season with pepper. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT HER SITE EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA**

Pancetta, Hummus with Balsamic-Drenched Tomato Sandwich

Creamy hummus and crispy pancetta MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Ingredients

4 portions
Total cooking time: 15 minutes

- 125 g (4 oz) pancetta, finely cubed
- 500 ml (16 oz) prepared hummus
- 4 large, thick slices sour -dough bread, toasted
- 2 large ripe tomatoes, cut into thick slices
- 1 small red onion, finely diced
- Aged balsamic vinegar
- Ground black pepper

3 LIFE

Sodium

Don't pass the salt

You can take action to reduce your sodium intake by doing the following:

- Use less or no salt when preparing meals.
- Pay attention to product packaging and look for foods labeled sodium-free, no added salt, low sodium, or reduced sodium.
- Use the Nutrition Facts table on food labels to choose foods that have less than 120 mg sodium per serving or less than 5% Daily Value.
- Choose breads, crackers, baked goods, snack foods, canned sauces, soups and dressings with a low sodium count per serving.

newscanada

On the Web

Seattle plans 'food forest' park where people will be able to pick fruits, nuts

WagJag.com

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Manitoba through to playoffs

Manitoba lead Derek Samagalski, right, celebrates his team's win over Northern Ontario with third Allan Lyburn on Thursday. Manitoba made the playoffs, along with Ontario, Alberta and Yukon and Northwest Territories. Ontario's Glenn Howard (10-1) and Manitoba's Rob Fowler (8-3) meet in Friday's playoff. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Can Fish hook Manning?

Dolphins. Marino ready to offer up sales pitch on why QB should play in Miami

If Peyton Manning wants to talk about playing quarterback for the Miami Dolphins, Dan Marino would be thrilled to take his call.

And just in case, Marino has his sales pitch ready.

"There's great tradition there. We've had a couple off years but believe me, they'll be back," said Marino, the Hall of Famer who threw for 420 touchdowns and more than 61,000 yards in his Dolphins career. "It's a great franchise and they'll get it turned around."

Manning would almost certainly help in that quest, which largely started when Marino retired more than a decade ago.

From the moment the four-time MVP parted with the Indianapolis Colts on Wednesday, buzz about Manning has been growing in Miami — much of it fueled by the quarterback's arrival in South Florida shortly after becoming an NFL free agent for the first time. Manning insists he doesn't know what his next move will be, and Marino believes him.

"I think he fits with anybody," Marino said Thursday at a charity golf tournament. "He's one of the best to ever play the game at that position. So wherever he ends up playing, if he's healthy, which is going to be important to Peyton, I'm sure he wants to go out there and play at a high level. Wherever he plays, he'll be a huge impact for that team."

The Dolphins are believed to be one of the teams interested in adding Manning; Miami plays a game at Indianapolis next season. Washington, Arizona, Seattle, Denver and Kansas City also are likely to talk to him, along with the Jets — the team that shares a stadium with the Giants and Manning's two-time, Super Bowl-winning brother Eli. ESPN reported Thursday that Manning will make a decision within the next week and wants to stay in the AFC.

Quoted

"I probably wouldn't (call Manning) unless he asks for some advice."

Dan Marino
Halll of Fame QB who played his entire NFL career in Miami.

"I know he likes the weather here in Miami, but I have no idea where he's going to go," said wide receiver Pierre Garcon, who caught 10 touchdown passes from Manning in 2009 and 2010. "I could not tell you anything."

Added Reggie Wayne, who has been working out with Manning: "I don't know. Ask Peyton."

Manning's arrival in Miami doesn't necessarily mean the Dolphins are frontrunners to get him. He owns a condo in Miami Beach, where television crews were staked out Thursday.

"He does like his privacy — and he's not going to have much of it until everyone finds out where he's going to go," Garcon said.

Why keep playing?

"He's a competitor. He loves the game. He loves winning," Garcon said. "You can never have enough Super Bowl rings. He wants to win and he wants to keep playing.... When you walk in a stadium with Peyton, you have at least a fighting chance to win a game."

After the Colts decided not to pick up Manning's $28 million bonus, team owner Jim Irsay ended months of speculation by releasing the 14-year veteran and longtime face of the franchise. Indianapolis likely will find Manning's replacement in April's draft, presumably Stanford's Andrew Luck. The Colts have the first overall pick.

Manning missed the entire 2011 season because of a damaged nerve that caused weakness in his right arm. He had the most recent of his multiple neck surgeries on Sept. 8.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Jets preview

Winnipeg at Vancouver, 8 p.m. (TSN-Jets)

The Flames (30-25-12) host the Jets (32-27-8), who played in Vancouver on Thursday night. Calgary edged Montreal 5-4 on Tuesday for its third win in its last 10 games. Blake Wheeler leads Winnipeg in scoring with 54 points thanks to a strong February in which he recorded 18 points in 14 games. Alex Tanguay has five points as part of a four-game scoring streak and has 31 assists on the season. Ondrej Pavelec allowed one goal in his first two starts this month, stopping 56 of 57 shots combined.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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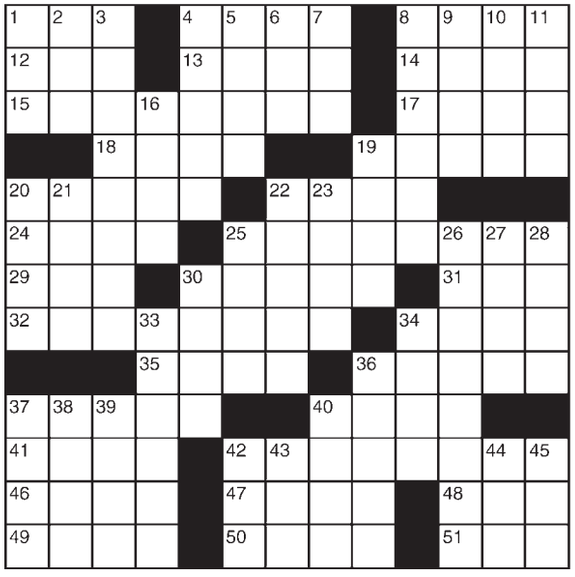
Crossword



Across

1 Corn spike
4 Stow cargo
8 Office note
12 Life story, for short
13 Lotion additive
14 Acknowledge
15 Unwanted repercussions
17 Cleo's river
18 Doctor's due
19 Stopped a squeak
20 Aesopian lesson
22 Transcending (Pref.)
24 Pavlov or Lendl
25 Aped
29 Calendar abbr.
30 Paycheck extra
31 Aye canceler
32 Rorschach patterns
34 "Phooey!"
35 Tramp's love
36 Syrup provider
37 Talking bird
40 Addition problems
41 Thy
42 Group of submarines
46 Youngster
47 Fix a text
48 Dove's call
49 Gardening tools
50 Ms. Moore
51 Barbie's companion

Down

1 "Cabaret" lyricist
2 Have a bug
3 Car attachment
4 Tag
5 "Sad to say ..."
6 Elmer, to Bugs
7 "A mouse!"
8 "Flashdance" song
9 Satanic
10 Double agent
11 Hadn't paid yet
16 Slowly withdraw (from)
19 Elevator name
20 Calf-length
21 It takes the cake
22 Like some mouthwash
23 Ostriches' kin
25 Disposition
26 Hiker's carryall
27 Count counterpart
28 Unit of force
30 Mediocre
33 Trumpet sounds
34 Moist
36 Civvies
37 Legend
38 Vacillate
39 Use the microwave
40 Slender
42 Marry
43 Praise in verse
44 Miler Sebastian

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Yesterday's answer

S	I	R	E		C	A	M		D	H	O	W
A	D	E	N		A	L	I		E	E	R	O
R	E	A	M		I	L	L		B	A	B	E
I	M	P	A	I	R		L	A	U	D		
			S	M	O	K	I	N	G	G	U	N
C	L	A	S	P		R	O	Y		E	G	O
L	O	V	E		W	I	N		S	A	L	E
E	K	E		O	I	L		A	P	R	I	L
F	I	R	I	N	G	L	I	N	E			
			A	N	E	W		A	T	L	A	S	T
S	A	G	A		A	T	M		L	I	A	R
E	D	E	N		M	O	B		E	D	G	E
C	O	D	E		S	O	S		D	E	S	K

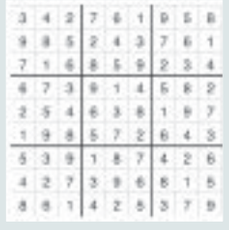
Sudoku

	3				9	8	6	
		2					5	4
				2		1		7
			7	5				8
	9						1	
6				1	4			
5		3		9				
2	1					7		
	4	8	1				3	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

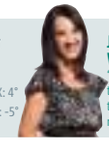


Send a kiss

- **One I'll Always Yearn For.** I keep telling myself he is not with me, don't miss him so much, but I can't help it, whenever I think of you I cry, will there ever be a solution? From Blind ignorant now too regretful and hopeful
- **Sisaboo.** I know you're going through a tough time right now, but keep your head up and stay strong like you always do. I've always admired your strength ever since we were little. But if you ever need somebody to lean on, you know I'll always be there. I love you. Life is tough, but you are tougher... S4L. Sister Bear
- **Tigress.** i feel ur roar, i swear i never meant to hurt you my love. i ain't a whore either, jealous of a little friend, eh? ... you say we deserve to be happy, but i need you to make me ;) Gazelle
- **Bum.** I am so proud of you. I know school is hard and there is so much going on in your life, but every night you stay up and talk to me. Even though you're there and Im here, I dream of the day when we are finished school and together for good. I love you so much babe. Joshy Poo

Weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: -2° MIN: -20°	MAX: 6° MIN: 0°	MAX: 4° MIN: -5°



BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Your head may be full of great ideas but are they practical? That is the question you need to ask.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You are where you are for a reason and your primary objective now should be to work out what that reason is. Look around.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You will see or hear something that hands you the opportunity for which you have been waiting.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. It does not matter how many tasks you have to deal with today, you will breeze through them all without a care in the world.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Someone is trying to deceive you and you will catch them red-handed today. Get tough.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Someone is desperate for you to tell them how much you appreciate them. The good news is you will find it easy to open up.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. It may look as if you are getting the poor end of a deal, but over the next few weeks you will more than make up for it.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Do something meaningful, something that makes a difference. The possibilities are endless.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Some people will be a little bit demanding today and it seems you have little choice but to do as they say.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. This is one of the best times to get out and about and trade opinions with people.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You will have to make sacrifices over the next two or three days but each and every one of them will be worth it.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. The Sun in your sign means there is no better time to find ways to improve yourself. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"Come on, get your head in the game, son!"
Kayla

PATRICK SEMANSKY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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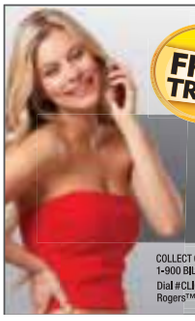
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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Chicago, Illinois – The 2012 Chevrolet Volt is taking a leisurely drive through the downtown core. It's the first electric vehicle with extended range to go wherever you want, whenever you want. This car is perfect for any road trip – no matter the distance.

Answers: 1. Direction of arrow changed left of the 2012 Chevrolet Volt 2. 6 pm changed to 9 pm on road sign 3. Colour of flower bed changed from red to yellow 4. Garbage can moved closer to group of people 5. Sign colour changed from blue to red at the top right of image 6. Window from building removed right of the group of people 7. Shadow pattern altered left of the 2012 Chevrolet Volt 8. Manhole cover removed right of the 2012 Chevrolet Volt 9. White stripe removed from the centre pole in the middle of image 10. Bolt removed from pole left of the 2012 Chevrolet Volt

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